

King Charles to Tell Macron ‘No Borders’ in Defiant Windsor Speech

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King Charles III will deliver a powerful message of unity tonight, 8 July 2025, as he hosts French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron at a state banquet in Windsor Castle. The event marks the start of a three-day state visit, the first by an EU leader since Brexit, and underscores the enduring strength of the Anglo-French alliance. In a speech described by a Palace source as a testament to his “deep

admiration” for France, the King will call for both nations to stand shoulder to shoulder against a “multitude of complex threats” that “know no borders.”

The banquet, attended by Queen Camilla, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other royals, will be a dazzling display of British hospitality. But beyond the pomp, Charles’s address will carry a resolute tone, Urging unity in an increasingly uncertain world marked by rising military threats, the statement emphasised that “these challenges transcend national borders, no fortress can shield us from them now.” The King will declare, according to the Palace source. His words reflect a clear-eyed recognition that neither nation can tackle these issues alone.

Reflecting on a “1,000 years of shared history and culture,” Charles will celebrate the deep ties between Britain and France. “For centuries, our citizens have admired each other, amused each other, and imitated each other,” he will say, drawing on personal connections, including his successful 2023 state visit to France, where his French Senate speech earned a standing ovation. The King, a fluent French speaker with a lifelong affinity for the country, remains “in awe of France’s extraordinary attributes and achievements,” the source added.

This visit, rich with symbolism, comes at a critical juncture. The Labour government, led by Sir Keir Starmer, is keen to “reset” post-Brexit relations, but scepticism persists. Critics on X have called Starmer’s approach overly conciliatory, pointing to the £500 million paid to France to curb Channel migrant crossings, with little tangible result. “Money down the drain,” one user posted, echoing a broader frustration with Labour’s handling of the small boats crisis. Thursday’s UK-France summit

at Downing Street will likely focus on this issue, alongside trade and defence cooperation, amid uncertainties over U.S. support for Ukraine.

The visit's ceremonial highlights include a carriage procession through Windsor, a royal salute, and a military parade. Macron will address Parliament, visit the late Queen Elizabeth II's tomb, and view a horse he gifted her for her 2022 Platinum Jubilee. A tour of Imperial College London's AI and technology exhibits will showcase Britain's innovation, reinforcing the practical benefits of this partnership.

Yet, the visit unfolds against a sombre backdrop. The nation remains reeling from the Southport tragedy, where three young girls, Bebe King, Elsie Dot Stancombe, and Alice da Silva Aguiar, were killed in a knife attack on 29 July 2024. An ongoing inquiry into the incident has intensified calls for accountability, with many questioning Labour's grip on public safety. "The government's priorities seem elsewhere," remarked a Southport resident on X, reflecting a sentiment that domestic failures risk overshadowing diplomatic gestures.

King Charles, who met the victims' families at Clarence House, has expressed solidarity with Southport's grieving community. His speech tonight will weave this resolve into a broader vision of unity, both at home and abroad. By emphasising that Britain and France must face borderless threats together, he underscores a truth: strength lies in partnership, whether confronting global crises or healing a wounded nation.